of Trade and Transit infrastructure in the North East in terms of PM's special package; and

(b) the action taken, target fixed and achievement made, so far, in implementing each of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The salient recommendations of Shukla Commission on Trade and Transit infrastructure in NE include, *inter alia,* strengthening of the presence of various commodity boards in the Region, integrated planning for utilisation of the Guwahati Air Cargo facilities, setting up of a task force to review the entire North East border and inter-country trade issue, commissioning of a transport optimisation study for international linkages and Transit/ Transhipment arrangements with Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan, exchange of delegation with Bangladesh and Myanmar.

(b) The presence of the Offices of Coffee Board, Tea Board, Spices Board, and Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority has been strengthened in the North Eastern Region. Airport Authority of India has planned expansion and modification of domestic terminal building, installation of modern state of art ASR/ MSSR etc. A walk in type cold storage for Horticultural/ Floricultural products has been provided at the Guwahati Airport. Department of Commerce has commissioned a transport optimisation study through Rail India Technical and Economic Consultancy Services. The report of the Inter-Ministerial Task Force to review the North East border trade has been submitted its report to the Planning Commission. An Empowered Committee is proposed to be set up to examine and implement the recommendations of the Task Force. Exchange of delegation with Myanmar and Bangladesh has also taken place.

Items exported *to* foreign countries

1829. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) which are the items being exported to foreign countries by Government to procure foreign exchange;

(b) in which States these items are produced;

(c) whether there is any decline in India's exports during the last year; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to revitalise India's export promotion?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) According to the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics data, major items of our exports include plantations, agri and allied products, marine products, ores and minerals, leather & manufactures, gems & jewellery, sports goods, chemicals & related products, engineering goods, electronics, textiles, handicrafts and carpets.

(b) There are no estimates available regarding production of exportable items by different States.

(c) and (d) As per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics provisional data, India's exports during April—January, 2000 were valued at US $ 30221 million registering a positive growth of 11.3% over the same period of last year.

A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust and focus regions.

Vizag Export Processing Zone

1830. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the performance of the Vizag Export Processing Zone in the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the performance of the Vizag Export Processing Zone is not satisfactory;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal to convert all export processing zones including Vizag into free trade zones; and